Legal Validity of POTA

4845. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Division Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is currently considering a batch of petitions challenging the legal validity of POTA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have filed an affidavit in the Court and revise its stand from its earlier position;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the revised Government stand signifies the Government's intention to have the POTA reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) The Division Bench of the Supreme Court has heard the arguments in respect of certain Writ Petitions challenging the constitutional validity and certain provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

(c) to (e) In case of the Writ Petition filed in the Supreme Court by Shri Vaiko, the Central Government filed an additional Affidavit mentioning the correct stand in the matter *inter-alia* indicating that the Government of India fully supports the constitutionality of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

Pakistani national staying in Kerala

4846. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani nationals are staying in Kerala without valid visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof with District-wise data;

(c) whether Government of Kerala sought the permission of Central Government to allow them to continue in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any decisions therein;

(e) whether Government proposed to confer those persons with refugee status; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) As per available information, as on date, 266 Pakistani nationals are staying in Kerala without valid visas. Their district-wise details are as under :

Thiruvananthpuram (Rural)	: 1
Idukki	: 1
Ernakulam (Rural)	: 1
Thrissur	: 3
Palakkad	: 5
Malapuram	: 95
Kozhikode city	: 3
Kozhikode (Rural)	: 12
Kannur	: 145

(c) and (d) Individual requests of the overstaying Pak nationals in Kerala to allow them to continue their stay in India are received through the Government of Kerala from time to time and decided by the Central Government under the existing policy guidelines governing the stay of Pak nationals in India.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal.

Implementation of Assam Accord

4847. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the clause-wise implementation status of Assam Accord with specific safeguards provided against each of legislative, constitutional and administrative measures under clause 6, outcome of meetings with signatories and target set to execute them;

(b) the details of initial and modified proposals of Assam Government towards implementing phase III (in parts) of the Modernization and Development of Jyoti Chitravan showing total outlay, part-wise target set, annual allocation, utilization and progress made; and

(c) the response of the Ministry towards the news-item which appeared in the media regarding Jyoti Chitravan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.